VOL. 15 DECEMBER, 1971 NO. 8

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is Hope. The Spirit of Christmas which is Peace. The Heart of Christmas which is Love.

REGULAR MEETING

NEW BERN LODGE OF PERFECTION NO. 6

MONDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 13, 1971 - 8:00 P.M.

— Refreshments —

Christmas Open House - Sunday Afternoon, December 19th 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. For all Master Masons and their families. Fellowship and Refreshments.

THE BAGPIPE

516 Hancock St., New Bern, N. C.

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NEW BERN SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
New Bern, N. C. 28560

ROBERT L. PUGH.....*Editor*
FLORIE G. DILL.....*Ass't. Editor*

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Vol. 15 No. 8
New Bern, N. C. December, 1971

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Junior Warden	C. Neil Vester
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The several Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the valley of New Bern, Orient of North Carolina, acknowledge and yield Allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree, the Mother Supreme Council of the World, whose see is at Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, of which HENRY C. CLAUSEN, 33°, is Grand Commander, C. FRED KLEINKNECHT, JR., 33°, is Grand Secretary General, James G. JOHNSTON, 33°, is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in N. C., and ROBERT L. PUGH, 33°, is Personal Representative in the Valley of New Bern of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in N. C.

Ill. James G. Johnston 33°

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

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SECRETARY'S PAGE

R. L. Pugh, 33°

The Dynamic Freedoms Reunion is now a matter of history. It was a glorious three days not only by the largest number of memberships ever to register for a Reunion but also by a surprisingly large class of candidates, numbering 144. The degree teams, as always, performed their functions in a most inspiring manner. The comment heard most frequently from those who were privileged to witness the degrees was one of admiration at the obvious dedication of the degree team members to the performance of their roles. New Bern degree teams long ago established a record of perfection in the exemplification of the degrees and their performance during the three days of this Reunion served only to enhance the quality of the work for which they were already noted.

The Tuesday afternoon banquet hour was given over to the awarding of the various caps to those who were eligible, the Fifty Year Veteran caps, the red caps for the newly elected Knights Commander of the Court of Honour (13 in number) and the white caps for the newly elected Thirty-Third degree members, of whom there were three. These awards were made by the Inspector General in North Carolina, Ill. James Guy Johnston, 33°, active member of the Supreme Council, who also brought a most inspiring address to the Brethren after the presentation of the caps. Our Inspector General was accompanied on this trip by his charming wife, Sarah, and his two delightful children, Susan and Middleton.

The highlight of the Reunion came during the Wednesday evening banquet hour which had been designated as the "Ed Blair Night". At this time our beloved Class Lecturer was signally honored by the group. During the period of tributes that were paid, there was the presentation of a gift by the Master of the 32°, Brother Bill Leggett, 32°, K.C.C.H., of Kinston. Brother Leggett expressed the appreciation of the entire degree team for the services Brother Blair had rendered as a member of that team for so many years. Our distinguished and beloved Class Lecturer was also presented a beautiful tribute in poetry which had been composed by our Poet Laureate, Brother J. Gaskill McDaniel, following which a certificate of Meritorious Service was presented to Brother Blair expressing the appreciation of the entire membership for his labors in the Scottish Rite. Present for this significant observance was Ed's wife, the former Annabelle Howard. Their son, Brother Bill Blair, 32°, K.C.C.H., Master of the 13°, was also present for the occasion.

The Reunion concluded Thursday evening with a program presented by the class officers: President, Alvin D. Underwood, Wilson, N. C.; Vice-President, Herbert C. Johnson, Jacksonville, N. C.; Secretary-Treasurer, Maynard A. Mobley, U.S.M.C., Cherry Point, N. C.; and Orator, Col. R. H. Rainforth, U.S.M.C., Cherry Point, N. C.

The conclusion oratory by the Orator of the Class, Col. Rainforth, was the highlight of this class program. The Reunion was significantly honored on the last day with a visit from our beloved and distinguished friend and brother from the Marine Corps, Lt. General H. Nickerson, Jr., 33°. He addressed the group following the presentation of the class program.

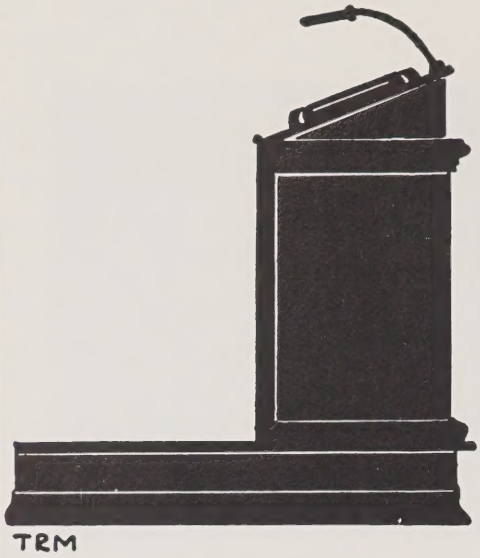
We now point our efforts to the Spring Reunion, April 11, 12 and 13, 1972. The members of this Dynamic Freedoms Class have all promised to make every effort to bring at least one candidate with them and we know we can count on them to make good on their promises.

Our Temple will be open for its annual Christmas Open House on Sunday afternoon, December 19th, beginning at 3:00 o'clock and continuing until 7:00 P.M. The Temple will be decorated throughout in the Christmas motif and you are extended a cordial invitation to visit your Temple bringing your families with you.

In the meantime, all of us in the office extend to you the wish that your Christmas will be filled with such moments of enjoyment and inner peace as will suit your individual need, together with an expression of hope for a Prosperous and Successful New Year.

R. L. Pugh

Secretary
Robert L. Pugh, 33°



From The Classroom

BY EDWARD P. BLAIR, 33° CLASS LECTURER

HOW BEST TO ENJOY SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY

Our Blue Lodge has been referred to as the foundation of Masonry as a whole. This is indeed a true statement in every sense of the word. Its' broad base supports the imposing super-structures that rest thereon. Here is found Scottish Rite Masonry, York Rite Masonry and the Shrine. The Blue Lodge has been rightfully defined as "A fellowship seeking to bring men together, the better to teach to honor and to love one another." This is a noble vision and no one attempting to estimate the real underlying meaning of the human race and its destiny can afford to ignore it. *Be a man a Prince, King or Peasant the door of Free Masonry is barred against man until he confesses his faith and belief in God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe.*

In order to enjoy Scottish Rite Masonry, it is first necessary to realize the fundamental truths of the foregoing remarks. The Scottish Rite builds its structure upon this beautiful foundation. Scottish Rite Masonry adds to the base with every brick that is placed. Our Philosophy lights up the world around us. Much like the dawn or morning sunshine of a new day. *The Foundation comes into its proper perspective in Scottish Masonry.* It adds a dignity and meaning not clearly visible before; as the applicant comes face to face with himself.

Thus, another enjoyment comes into being when we take a fresh look at ourselves. In every succeeding degree from the 4° through the 32°, a man becomes more conscious of his possibilities in this life of ours. One can not help but see his place and where his life can take on new meaning. *When each brick, stone or marble is laid, we find ourselves stepping on Higher Ground.*

Briefly, then, seeing one's self as never before is perhaps our greatest enjoyment. The dew drops of golden fellowship blends anew, as we come closer to God and man. It makes for Government without Tyranny. Religion without superstition. *It is not out to destroy man and their family but rather to add deeper meaning to life and their God.*

It has been said that some Ministers oppose the Rite to their members. I say in simple rebuttal, many of our most glorious advocates are Ministers of the Gospel. This is like trying to estimate the beauty and value of a stained glass window from the outside, *it cannot rightfully be done. First, let us go inside the sanctuary or temple and perhaps another and deeper meaning will come to us from the other side, within.* There is no conflict between one's religion and Scottish Rite Masonry, as countless hundreds of of Preachers declare; their view along with ours illumines a better world for us all. *Thus, man and God can walk arm in arm and hand in hand across our checkered floors with each other and our Maker.*

Perhaps the Poet expresses the thought, even better yet, when he wrote,

"I sought my God, my God I could not see,
I sought my soul and my soul eluded me,
I sought a friend and I found all three,
My God, My Soul and Thee."

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Christmas Open House

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE

New Bern, N. C.

SUNDAY EVENING

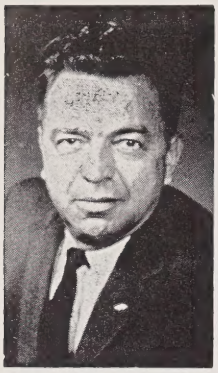
December 19, 1971, 3:00 to 7:00 P.M.

All Master Masons and their families are extended a cordial invitation to visit us at any time during the Open House observance. The Temple will be decorated with the Christmas theme and refreshments will be served. Come and spend a few moments of quiet Christmas relaxation with us. Santa Claus will visit us in the latter part of the afternoon.

Bagpipe Skirls

Dear Brethren,

When the bag and I blasted forth last month for the November edition, the weather was so warm and it was so far back in October, we failed to remember that Thanksgiving was around the corner and that it was appropriate to do a number or two for Thanksgiving. Since every day is a day of Thanksgiving, we will try to catch up and blow a note or two on the subject.



HOW THANKFUL ARE YOU?
Did you think ere you awoke this morning
To thank God for this newborn day?
And ere the day was dawning,
Did you pause a moment to pray?
Did you thank Him that He gave you,
This morning, your daily breath?
Were you thankful that He saved you
From last night's sleep of death?
If so, your day will be brighter,
Your road more easily trod;
The load will be so much lighter
Because you gave thanks to God.

* * * * *

We have no right to ask when sorrow comes, "Why did this happen to me?" unless we ask the same question for every joy that comes our way.

* * * * *

Kindness is a language that the mute can speak and the deaf can hear.

Phil, cheerfully: "I am always breaking into song."

Will: "You wouldn't have to break in if you had the right key."

* * * * *

About the only thing that comes down today is the rain, and even that soaks you.

* * * * *

Middle age is when your memory is shorter, your experience is longer, your stamina lower, and your forehead higher.

* * * * *

Discussing the different types of taxes, students in a fifth grade class were asked to name as many taxes as they could. They named those they had learned in history, such as the tea tax and the stamp tax. They named the usual of today, such as the gasoline, poll, inheritance, amusement, and income taxes. Then one youngster raised his hand and volunteered, "I've heard my daddy talk about those damn taxes."

* * * * *

No one can deny that a yawn may be bad manners — but at least it's an honest opinion.

* * * * *

Just because things go wrong is no indication that you must go with them.

* * * * *

America is the land where in one generation a family can rise from a plain cabin to a cabin plane.

* * * * *

A lady who had lost a thumb in an accident went to a lawyer and asked him to sue in her behalf for $50,000.

"Why do you put such a high value on your lost thumb?" he asked. "Was it that important?"

"I'll say it was," she retorted. "If you must know, that was the thumb I had my husband under."

* * * * *

Wife to husband: "I scratched the front fender a little, dear. If you want to look at it, it's on the back seat."

* * * * *

"Did he take his misfortune like a man?"

"Precisely. He laid the blame on his wife."

* * * * *

Self control might be defined as the ability to carry a credit card and not abuse it.

* * * * *

Now, Brethren, a look into the near future — Christmas.

"My tests show that your thyroid is perfectly normal," said the doctor to his weighty patient. "What you suffer from is an overactive fork."

* * * * *

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.

* * * * *

"Santa's coming down the chimney?"
Gaily hear the kiddie shout.
And his bag we know is bulging,
For our budget is wiped out.

* * * * *

A MERRY CHRISTMAS — and may God grant you every happiness in this wonderful season.

Your piper,
Paul Stevens

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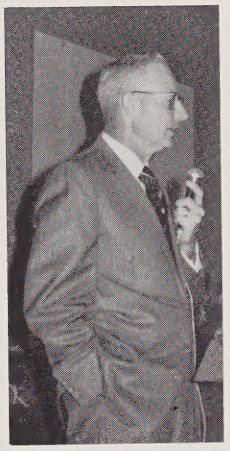
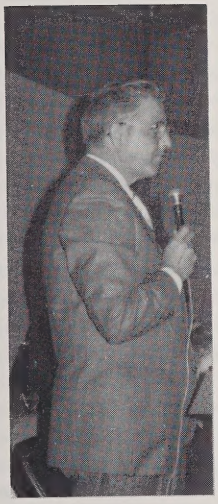
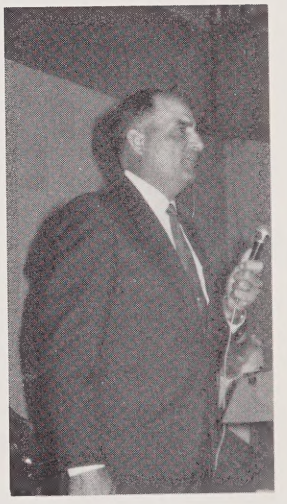
ONSLOW-LEJEUNE LADIES NIGHT, OCT. 28







Colonel (soon to be General) Herbert L. Wilkerson speaks to Onslow-Lejeune Masons and their ladies on "Masonry and the Military" (top center). Program participants are shown in the center photo; from left, Sergeant Major and Mrs. Russell D. Baker, Colonel and Mrs. Joseph A. Nelson, Colonel and Mrs. Herbert L. Wilkerson, Captain and Mrs. Dennis Combs. At left center Captain Combs serves as toastmaster and at right center Colonel Nelson introduces the speaker. The four photos at the corners show guests enjoying the evening.

DOWN ONSLOW WAY

By

Reynold S. Davenport, 33°

This country has gone packaging crazy — almost everything you purchase nowadays is so wrapped up, or so encased, or so baled, that you lose an hour and most of your patience trying to find out what you bought.

The other morning I undertook to open a box of cereal. In large letters inside a circle at one end it said, "Open this end." Now I don't know why it said that, not unless it was daring you to try. I broke two fingernails and one New Year's resolution before I finally grabbed a knife and made a hole I could function through.

Inside the box the cereal was packaged in some sort of a cross between plastic and sheet steel, mixed with rubber. You could pull at it and it would stretch halfway across the kitchen but it wouldn't tear to save your life. I finally punctured it with the knife — even this wasn't easy — and then tried to saw open a pouring slit and it stretched and twisted and finally gave way with a rush that left cereal all over the kitchen floor.

My granddaughter and I were in the supermarket one day and she spied a toy jewelry set that she just had to have and I just had to buy it for her. You know how that is. This jewelry set was mounted on a slab of cardboard (impregnated with iron) and each piece was fastened with a steel staple that could have supported a loaded wheelbarrow. In addition, the whole business was encased in a bullet-proof plastic bubble. It cost seventy-nine cents.

When we got back to the car she wanted to put on her jewelry right then so I got out the old pocketknife and assaulted that thing. I cut myself, broke a string of beads, broke that New Year's resolution again (under my breath this time), and drew a crowd of sympathetic kibitzers before I finally freed enough of the trinkets to pacify my granddaughter while I drove unsteadily home.

Luckily I had a crowbar and some other tools at home with which I was able to complete the opening process. I figure that out of the seventy-nine cents I paid twenty-seven cents for reinforced cardboard, thirty-two cents for superior grade plastic, twelve cents for heavy-duty staples, and eight cents for the jewelry.

Packaging is also used quite effectively now to sell you things you don't need or want.

Not long ago I had to repair a leaky faucet and needed a washer. I went to the store and all the washers they had were sealed up in little plastic bottles marked "assorted." I didn't need an assortment but had to buy one in order to get the washer I needed. When I got home and finally got the thing opened up — using all the proper tools and resolution breakers — I found that I had two washers of the size I needed, two that fit the garden hose, and two that might be of use on the Queen Mary's bilge pumps. There were some other gadgets in there that were completely unfamiliar to me and looked like they might be useful in repairing the nose gear of a 747.

The use of pins in packaging shirts, pajamas and other garments is an old customer-torturing device that manufacturers have not yet been able to replace with some more diabolical scheme. They have, however, become ever more ingenious in the matter of pin placement. It is quite obvious, when you attempt to undo a new shirt, that only one or two of the pins serve any practical purpose whatsoever. The rest of them are simply booby traps. Looking for them becomes a painful game. You don't have any trouble finding the points, one of them stabs you every time you move. It's finding the heads that's difficult. I suspect that pin-placers are the most highly skilled workers to be found in shirt factories.

That's all from Onslow.

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"With Mouth To Ear"

BY CLYDE McCARVER, 32°, K.C.C.H.

THE ETERNAL LIGHT

There is much which each of us — regardless of his religious tradition — may learn from the season through which we are about to pass. We call it the "Christmas Season." What do we mean?

The true meaning of Christmas didn't just begin with the birth of the Man of Nazareth (a religious tradition which is ever precious to the Christian); but, was always in the heart of God (a tradition which is precious to all men of faith, regardless of the religion they may follow). One was impressed as he enjoyed that stirring play "Green Pastures." In one of the really great scenes, God leans over the batterments of Heaven and is moved over the condition of His world. It was a world which was created good. It was a world which mankind had misused and misfigured! As He looks over this kind of an ill-formed world, his active mercy dropped to the earth. His seeking love for all mankind is made manifested.

History is not a random kaleidoscope of events which are hurriedly disseminated; it is a process which is directed by a Great Architect who can see the end in the beginning. He knows our frame and understands our weaknesses. He has had redemption in His heart from the foundation of the world. There is an eternal light which has always shone in the darkness and shall ever shine — if men have but the spiritual eyes to behold its glow and directives. We must not be lost in the pageantry, symbols, and lowly legends of this season. We must recapture (you in your way and by your tradition; and I in mine) that there is an ultimate purpose behind this glorious season.

For our purpose here and now, let us place the emphasis not so much on the birth of a person as on the work of a Holy Spirit in the hearts of all men of good will and spiritual insights. Regardless of what your religion may state relative to a Messiah, it must be recognized that nothing less than the Holy Spirit of God, Himself, is at work among men who are open to receive the blessings.

This Spirit is to bring truth to men.

Rev. Clyde G. McCarver, 32°, K.C.C.H.

It is this realization which prompted the Prophets to speak of the coming of a Messiah. They speak of the fact that God shall speak in human and divine form. In this divine form men shall see what God is like and what men ought to be. This is a season when we seek for the truth concerning God and concerning ourselves. It ought to be a time of introspection; for this Spirit enables men to recognize the truth when they see it. When this truth is seen, realized, and lived, the moral poison of society is made pure and clean. How our world needs such an experience right now! When that Spirit of God comes to be resident in the hearts of men, they begin to see things differently. They state that they have received light but partially and that they desire a fuller awareness of that light. Oft times we lose sight of that shining Glory of God when we become absorbed by so many encumbrances both material and theological — at that particular season which we call "Christmas." The true meaning is the annunciation of the coming of God amongst the son of men. It is the assurance that the Great Architect will come to the shallow grave of Hiram and shall raise him to uprightness again.

A little boy wanted more than anything else to see the circus when it came to his town. Finally that day arrived when the circus would come. His father gave him a bit of money to attend the performance. He made his way to town with great joy. Just as he came to the main street he heard the sound of the band! He stood on the curb and saw the animals come by, the clowns caper, and the lions roared! He returned home confidently assured that he had seen the circus! He had only seen the parade! Such is life, my brothers. Many will only see the parade of this Holy Season because we mistake it for the main attraction. O, if you and I could but see it, God laid bare His inherent character and purpose for mankind. It was the perpendicular entry of God into history which has made the difference throughout the ages. Christmas is eternally the revelation, the disclosure, the unveiling of the glory of Almighty God to man. This revelation, disclosure and clear vision of the Great Architect and His designs may be yours and mine — not only at this season — but always. This is the eternal Light which all Masons seek. May you find it!

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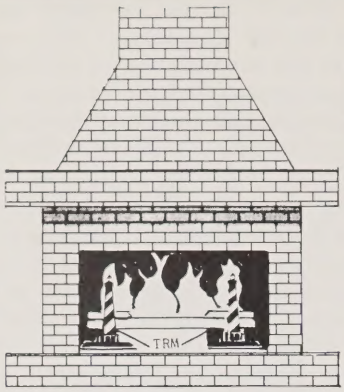

HEARTHSIDE CHATS

By

Tom MacRae, 32°

We've missed our first "deadline" as a writer — this is in the typewriter on Nov. 14 and should have been on Mrs. Dill's desk not later than Nov. 10 — but perchance it may appear in the next edition of The Bagpipe.

The racial situation in a certain coastal city to all indications is more serious than during the early months of 1971. Police are split in two 12-hour shifts and despite overtime pay, prefer the customary three-shift schedule.

Local news media, with personnel available to rotate newsmen, have it far easier than "out-of-towners" from the wire services and larger newspapers who have to depend on a single writer.

Yesterday morning - Saturday - we received a tip that violence would erupt that night. Muttering some words which we omit in respect to some readers, we packed the car with clothing and some other articles not found in the average department store.

Upon reaching the city we headed for our favorite motel and asked, hopefully, if room 119 was available. (We spent so many nights in that room back in February and March we became used to the mattress and pillows.)

"My gosh, YOU are back again! I'm leaving town because any time YOU come there's trouble," the usually affable lady behind the desk exclaimed. Room 119, it developed, "had been blocked off" for some Piedmont pilot.

Assigned a second-floor room, 215, we made several trips to the car before our survival kit was unloaded. Three short-wave radios (one which scans 16 channels) were activated.

A gas mask, flak jacket and .38 revolver (the last item remains in the room) were on the couch as we prepared to unpack. At this moment the maid entered to check the towel supply. Police signals were emerging from two radios.

"Good heavens! The police chief has moved his office here!" the maid shouted. It required several minutes to calm her and complete the towel check.

By rushing, we made it inside the restaurant in time to get the noon meal on the motel bill which, for some reason, newspaper auditors demand before honoring expense accounts.

"What has happened now? Why are you here? Where is the trouble going to break out? I'm going straight home" were a few of the remarks passed by the waitresses. We debated going out for a hot dog.

Between 2:30 and 4 p.m. we interviewed leaders of both militant organizations. After glancing over the police log and jotting a few notes, we timed our drive from the motel to the park outside the city that was supposed to become a "battleground" about 7 p.m.

Returning to room 215, we inserted copy paper into the typewriter and banged out a "first add" for the upcoming story that would be based on developments at 7 p.m. After telephoning Raleigh and dictating this, it was too late for a decent supper.

By "too late" we mean that by eating it would have delayed our arrival inside the park. Reporters, unlike combat troops, do not receive "combat pay" and we intended to be OUTSIDE the park at 7 p.m. (You can go in later and take pictures.)

After interviewing one leader inside the park at 6:15 (yes, we watched the time) we learned the assembly would depart within 15 minutes and regroup inside the city at another location.

Back in the car, we headed to the motel to write the essential material for the "first add" filed earlier. While dictating this information the radios informed us that certain steps were being made to insure peace before any trouble erupted.

The state desk said it would be necessary for supplemental calls every 30 minutes to keep the news current. A subscriber obviously benefits from reading a newspaper with four editions.

At 11:30 p.m. it appeared that both sides might as well have run up white flags. Returning to the motel restaurant we ordered fried flounder. "If you eat much more seafood your stomach will go in and out with the tide," the waitress said.

Back in room 215 we sipped a cool one (grape, of course) and listened to the radios while reading until 2:30 a.m. Then to bed. The 13th was a bad day . . . even Georgia lost to Auburn.

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Elizabeth City Scottish Rite Party - Ladies' Night

The Elizabeth City Scottish Rite Ladies' Night was held at the Masonic Temple in Elizabeth City October 27, 1971.

Brother Gideon G. Kight, 32°, President of Elizabeth City Scottish Rite Club was Toastmaster.

Invocation was given by Brother Walter T. Kirby, 32°, K.C.C.H.

Address of Welcome by Brother Cosby S. Jones, 32°, Vice-Pres., Elizabeth City Scottish Rite Club.

Response by Bro. C. E. Bunch, 32°, K.C.C.H.

Brother Francis W. Clark, 33°, discussed the forthcoming Reunion in New Bern and urged Members to get Candidates to attend.

Brother W. M. Smith, 32°, K.C.C.H. introduced the Speaker, Dr. Ray L. Alexander, 32°, Minister First Christian Church, Washington, N. C. who brought a very interesting Speech on Scottish Rite Masonry which was very much enjoyed by all.

Brother R. K. Hollomon, 32°, gave the Benediction.

A delicious Roast Beef Dinner was enjoyed by the 220 Members and Visitors present.

R. K. Hollomon

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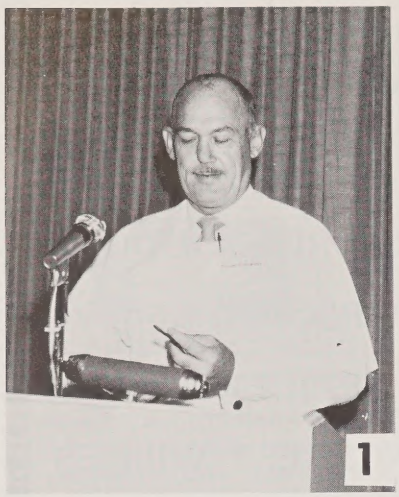

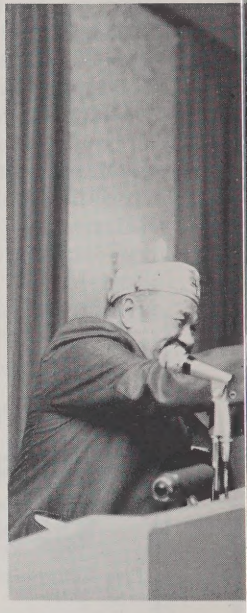

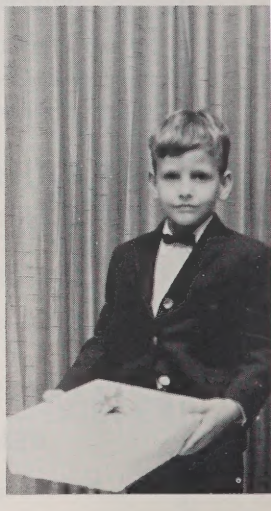

1. Col. R. H. Rainforth, Class Orator.
2. Secretary Robert L. Pugh welcomes Mrs. E. P. Blair.
3. Inspector General James G. Johnston and Class Lecturer E. P. Blair, honoree of the Dynamic Freedoms Reunion.
4. James W. Brewer, 33°, Venerable Master New Bern Lodge of Perfection.
5. Our genial Secretary introduces little Miss Susan Johnston to the members and guests.
6. Mrs. James G. Johnston and Secretary Bob Pugh greeting the guests.
7. Alvin D. Underwood, Class President.
8. Secretary Pugh watches as Mrs. Ne Cap" (note the gloves used to handl
9. Brother Robert W. Barnum, our "n Gassman, another 50 year man!
10. Honor Guest Edward P. Blair presen
11. Secretary Pugh, and Mr. and Mrs. E
12. Inspector General James G. Johnst Barnum.

union — November 16, 17, 18, 1971

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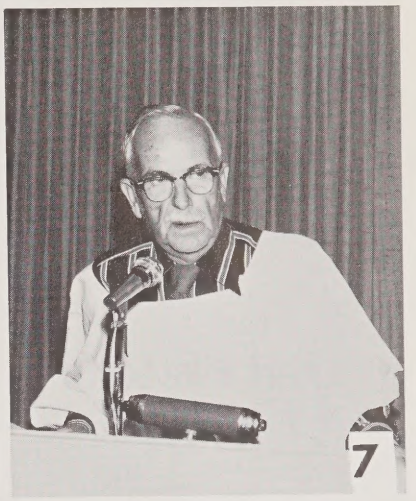
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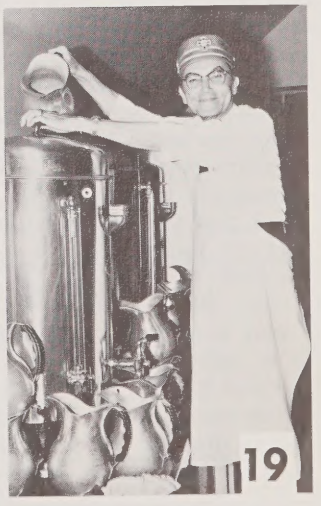
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Banks presents her husband with the 33° "White
p!).
st" Fifty Year Veteran greets Brother Edmund R.

ed Cap, K.C.C.H., to his son, William E. Blair.
lair.
presenting Fifty Year Cap to Brother Robert W.

13. Lt. General Herman Nickerson, 33°, honor guest for Thursday Night Dinner.
14. Ill. Jas. G. Johnston congratulates Brother George Roberts on his 33° cap.
15. Ill. Johnston congratulating Brother Robert Safrit on receiving the 33° cap.
16. Bob Pugh introducing young Middleton Johnston.
17. Nelson almost kissing Lucille — contact almost, but not quite!
18. Brother Bill Leggett, Master of 32°, presenting a gift to Brother Ed Blair.
19. Tommy Leris wearing his new "Red Cap" and a broad smile!

SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

Albert Pike Scottish Rite Club

The "Albert Pike Scottish Rite Club" of Plymouth, N. C. held their regular meeting on Wednesday night, Oct. 27, 1971, at which time we were host to our "Area Ladies' night party". We were delighted with a splendid attendance from Washington, Williamston, Windsor, and throughout the district. A delicious turkey dinner was enjoyed by everyone present.

Brother and Mrs. Newman Lewis were present. Brother Lewis brought us the principal address of the evening, which was very inspiring and informative on the principles and teaching of Masonry.

By the time the next issue of the Bagpipe goes to press our reunion will be over, and we will be entering the Christmas season and Freemasons of our lodge with those of all others join wholeheartedly in commemorating the birth of the "Master of Israel" who came to bring peace to men of good will in a world of strife, hatred and persecution.

What everybody says — perhaps — is true. What most people say, at any given time, is very likely to be false. Truth has always lived with minorities, so do not let the current of widespread opinion sweep you away, but try to have a mind of your own, and not to be browbeaten because the majority of the people round about you are giving utterance, and it may be unmeasured utterance, to any opinions.

Now, there is one direction in which I wish to urge that especially — and that is, in regard to the attitude that so many amongst us are taking to Christian truth. If you have honestly thought out the subject to the best of your ability, and have come to conclusions diverse from those which Christian men hold dearer than their lives, that is another matter. But I know that very widely there is spread today the fashion of unbelief. So many influential men, leaders of opinion, teachers and preachers, are giving up the old-fashioned Evangelical faith, that it takes a strong man to say that he will stick by it. It is a poor reason to give up your attitude, that unbelief is in the air, and nobody believes these old doctrines any more. That may be. There are currents of opinion that are transitory, and that is one of them, depend upon it. But at all events do not be fooled out of your faith, as some are tending to be, for no better reason than because other people have given it up.

Christmas of 1971 finds the world filled with tension, anxiety, and fear as never before. Although we think and speak longingly of peace and men of good will, there is no real peace to be found. We are all, in one way or another, engaged in what is perhaps one of the bitterest struggles of all time. Reviewing what the last half century has been, those of us who are still alive, well fed, well clothed, in good health, and of sane mind, have a great deal to be profoundly thankful for. These have been dreadful years. They have been completely dominated by wars, both cold and hot, and we still live within their portentous shadow. This alone has caused men to be constantly submerged in a kind of fear unknown on earth for centuries.

What the days to come may bring forth can be known only to Him in the hollow of whose great hand we live and move and have our being, but history tells us that the free society has as yet no reason to give way to despair.

We, as Scottish Rite Masons, have an assurance that many of our fellow citizens do not have. We know that God is not dead, that He has not abdicated His sovereignty, and that He will in His own good time and by His own means, cure the evils which now afflict our society. We also know that, in carrying out His purposes, He will, as He has always done, use the instrumentality of human hands. With God's help, Scottish Rite Masons will do their part in solving the present and future problems of our Nation.

Wilmer C. Chesson

Beaufort County Scottish Rite Club

The Beaufort County Scottish Rite Club held a Candidate - Ladies' Night charcoal steak cook-out Sunday evening, October 24th, at the Washington Lodge No. 675. There were six potential candidates with their wives present. And as usual all men including the candidates cooked their own steaks, all men that is, except Bob Pugh, Nelson Banks had to cook Bob's steak. Nelson said, "I don't mind cooking your steak Bob, but if I drop one of the steaks on the ground, it will not be mine". There were over sixty members and their wives present and at least one member exclaimed, "this is one of the nicest social evenings I have ever attended". We were disappointed though, because we had expected many regular members from the Aurora area that did not show-up. We are sorry that you fellows were sick, we know that you were sick because your steaks were bought for you and it would not have cost you a cent, we are sorry that you lost out. Hope you will feel better and will be at our next meeting which will be Sunday evening at six o'clock, December 5th, but this time you will have to bring your own steaks.

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Bob and Nelson made very good talks on Scottish Rite Masonry. When Bob introduced Nelson, he informed us that Nelson had just been honored with the 33rd degree. Congratulations Nelson. Both of these fine Brothers addressed their remarks to candidates and their wives and explained the program provided for the ladies and how the men will be benefitted from taking the degrees. Past President Henry Jones presided and introduced Bob Pugh. Brother Jones also had as his guest, Sonny Whaley and his wife of Vanceboro, he also welcomed the guests and invited the candidates to affiliate with our club after taking the degrees.

Ashley G. Leggett

Chowan County Scottish Rite Club

The Chowan County Scottish Rite Club held a regular meeting on October 15, 1971 at the Club building in Edenton with a fine steak dinner with all the trimmings. The dinner was enjoyed by 24 members and their wives.

President Leon Bunch appointed H. B. Williford, Jr., C. O. Forehand and Kenneth Armstrong as a nominating committee for officers for the coming year.

President Bunch urged all members to get out and find new candidates for the November Reunion. Our next meeting will be held November 12, 1971 at the Club building with a cover-dish supper.

Leon Bunch, 32°, President
H. B. Williford, Jr., 32°, Sec.-Treas.

East Carteret Scottish Rite Club

Ladies' Night was held October 30, 1971 at the West Carteret High School Cafeteria with approximately 200 Brothers and ladies attending and enjoying a roast beef dinner. Brother A. P. Hill was a most worthy toastmaster; Brother R. T. Willis, Jr., gave the invocation; and the gathering was welcomed by Brother J. C. Campobasso. Brother Ronald E. Goodwin recognized the 33° Brothers: Earl Noe, Sr., Ed Blair, Charles Potter, and especially the latest coroneted Brother, Robert W. Safrit, Jr., and their ladies. Brother A. H. McDonald, Jr., made the gathering acquainted with some of the accomplishments of the speaker of the evening, Dr. Ray L. Alexander, 32°, minister, First Christian Church, Washington, N. C. Dr. Alexander added inspiration to the meeting while speaking of "little people" and the roles they play in the making of history; not big names, nor dictators, nor rich men, but as you and I must each do our share to advance our aims and beliefs.

A number of candidates to the reunion were present, and to them especially Brother Charles Potter, representing the Consistory, talked about what the candidates and their ladies would be viewing, the entertainment provided, and of course the pounds gained as the price to be paid for the delicious meals. Oh, those calories!

The regular meeting of the East Carteret Scottish Rite Club was held November 1, 1971 at the lodge. President A. C. Blankenship called the meeting to order and noted the attendance was quite good. The members were reminded that the reunion was only two weeks away, and they were urged to push harder on some of the reluctant prospective candidates. We want a good representation at this reunion. The secretary gave a report on Ladies Night, and the meeting was adjourned.

By the time you read this report the officers for the year 1972 will have been

Dynamic Freedoms Reunion Class Officers, left to right: Col. R. H. Rainforth, Class Orator; Maynard A. Mobley, Secretary-Treasurer; Herbert C. Johnson, Vice-President and Alvin D. Underwood, President.

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chosen and installed. As Secretary-Treasurer for the year 1971 I would like to say the work has been most enjoyable, and I thank those who have been willing to help make it so.

John C. Campobasso,
Secretary-Treasurer

Fort Bragg Scottish Rite Ladies Night

On Wednesday evening, October 27th, 178 Scottish Rite Masons, prospective candidates, their ladies and guests enjoyed a delightful dinner in the Horace Ziglar Banquet Hall of Fort Bragg Lodge No. 667 in Spring Lake, N. C.

After suitable preparations had been made by the Ladies of the Eastern Star, who did an outstanding job in preparing and serving the meal, the gathering was invited to be seated by Brother William C. Hammond, Jr., 32°, K.C.C.H., who acted as Toastmaster for the occasion.

After an invocation by Brother Allen C. Edens, Jr., 32°, a delicious and bountiful roast turkey dinner was enjoyed by all.

Brother Hammond then introduced Brother Purcell E. Rose, 32°, Master of Fort Bragg Lodge, who welcomed the assembly and invited all to make a tour of the building after the meeting. Brother Rose took this opportunity to introduce the Officers of Fort Bragg Lodge who were present.

The Toastmaster then introduced distinguished guests who were present, including Court of Honor Members, degree cast members and the Officers and Ladies of the Eastern Star. Particular attention was paid to Brother Charles Gold Harrill, Past Master of Fort Bragg Lodge, who was recently honored by being elected to be invested with the rank of K.C.C.H.

Brother R. Vincent MacBryde was then recognized, and he responded by introducing the Speaker of the evening, who was none other than our beloved Past Grand Master, Brother James (Jimmie) Brewer, 33°.

Brother Brewer delivered a most interesting and instructive talk, starting out with Masonic oddities, such as the tallest Mason, the shortest Mason and the largest Mason. He then went into the meat of his talk, the philosophy and teaching of Scottish Rite Masonry. His speech was well delivered and received and many favorable comments were heard.

Brother Hammond then gave the details of taking the degrees and then called upon Mrs. Anthony C. Cabeza, wife of a candidate in our Spring Reunion. Mrs. Cabeza was most enthusiastic in her praise of the Ladies Program that is put on for the wives of the candidates and said her only regret was that she couldn't be the wife of a candidate again.

The benediction was then pronounced by Brother Allen C. Edens, Jr., 32°, and the group broke up to return to their various homes filled with enthusiasm and vowing to make this reunion the best ever.

Grifton Scottish Rite Club

The Grifton Scottish Rite Club met for its October meeting at the Grifton V.F.W. Hut on Monday night, October 11, 1971 at 7:30 P.M. President Brother Curtis Ward called the meeting to order and Brother Jim Hudson gave the invocation. Delicious charcoal steaks were then enjoyed by the twelve members and four guests present.

The meal being completed, Brother Curtis introduced our guests: Dick Whitt, Al Bremer, and Ray Brown, candidates for the Scottish Rite Degrees, and guest speaker Brother Reynold Davenport from Jacksonville. Brother Reynold then presented us a fine talk, with special emphasis for the candidates, regarding the Scottish Rite Degrees, how they are portrayed, and how they better an individual Mason once he has taken the degrees. He also invited all 32° Masons to attend the "Dynamic Freedoms Reunion" as each time the degrees are reviewed they tend to rejuvenate an individual to continue living the concepts of Scottish Masonry.

Brother Curtis then requested, and received a hearty round of applause for our cooks, Brothers Chic Johnson and M. C. Batten who faithfully continue to prepare our fine meals.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers for the ensuing year which are as follows:

M. C. Batten ..... President
R.F.D. 2, Grifton, N. C.
J. F. Hudson ..... Vice-President
301 Charles St., Grifton, N. C.
R. D. Taylor ..... Secretary-Treasurer
R.F.D., Kinston, N. C.
Curtis Ward ..... Chaplain
Box 637, Grifton, N. C.
Lewis E. Mumford, Jr. ..... Scribe
P. O. Box 786, Grifton, N. C.

Brother Curtis then took the opportunity to thank all outgoing officers for their assistance and loyalty during the past year and expressed the hope that all would continue the same for new president brother M. C. Batten.

President Brother M. C. Batten then asked that we remember our late Brother and Chaplain, J. O. House who passed away recently. It seemed a most fitting and appropriate means of our Club paying some measure of tribute to one of the finest men ever to grace our midst. To this writer, Brother J. O. House was the epitome of Masonry as he knows it. Brother J. O. never failed to lend an air of dignity to every gathering he attended. He will be sorely missed by this Club particularly and Masonry in general.

There being no further business to be

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attended to Brother M. C. dismissed us. Our next meeting will be held on Monday night, November 8, 1971 at 7:30 P.M. at the V.F.W. Hut. We would like to remind our Ayden Brothers to join with us in our next meeting and enjoy the fellowship and good steaks.

Respectfully,
Lewis Eugene Mumford, Jr., Scribe

The New Bern Scottish Rite Club

Is this a Christian Nation? An interesting and edifying debate could be conducted on whether or not America is a Christian Nation. On the affirmative side could be ranged the evident religious intent of many of the early settlers; the constitutional guarantees of religious and civil liberty; the immense sums given annually to benevolent activities and Christion education; and the great strength of the religious bodies in America today. On the other hand, the negative of the proposition would not lack for strong arguments. Waiving aside the question whether the Constitution of our country and its founders ever intended to identify this nation with the Christian religion the defenders of the negative could show that the Christianization of the country at no time even went to the extent of the open profession of religious faith by a majority of the people.

In detail they could raise some most embarrassing questions about our use of wealth, our city slums, our political sins, our failure to support the church and its workers while we heap wealth on those who can amuse us and contribute to our pleasure.

Perhaps the judges of the debate would say something like this: The affirmative arguments prove that America has more nearly approximated the Christian ideal than any other nations have done. But the negative have demonstrated that, in a country where for the first time in history soul liberty and civil liberty have together had an opportunity to show what they could do, Christianity has failed to dominate great and increasing sections of the national life. The judges decline to decide between the contestant debaters on the ground that the terms of the question debated do not set forth with clearness what is meant by a Christian nation. If the purposes of the early colonists, and the attainments of the nation compared with others, were the gauge, we would declare for the affirmative. But if the standards of Him who is the founder and substance of Christianity are the measure, the negative has won easily. Past good will not suffice. However gladly we may point to the acts of our country in the past as an evidence of our faith, the only ground upon which we may safely claim that this is a Christian nation is the effective operation and constant re-creation of Christian principles in this country now.

Respectfully submitted,
C. F. Dickinson, Sec.-Treas.

Ocracoke Island Scottish Rite Club

A regular meeting of the Ocracoke Island Scottish Rite Club was held on October 7th with eleven members present.

President Benjamin E. Spencer called the meeting to order and routine business was transacted.

It was announced that new officers for the coming year would be elected at the next meeting.

* * * * *

On October 23rd, 1971 at 8:30 o'clock a regular meeting of the Ocracoke Island Scottish Rite Club was held. There were 13 members present.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Junius Austin, 32° ..... President
Norbert Schau, 32° ..... Vice-President
Frank Teeter, 32° ..... Secretary-Treasurer

It was decided that an Ocracoke Scottish Rite Club dinner would be held on Saturday night, October 30th in the Pony Room of the Pony Island Restaurant.

Frank D. Teeter, Secretary

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Wilson County Scottish Rite Club

The Wilson County Scottish Rite Club met Wednesday night. The meeting was called to order by Claude Anthony, President. Brother D. M. Harrell gave the invocation. After a delicious meal, Brother Anthony made several remarks about our Scottish Rite Reunion Nov. 16-17-18 and invited all to attend and take a candidate.

Brother Anthony introduced our speaker, Dr. Ralph Perry who made a most interesting talk about the eyes and how to care for them.

The meeting was closed with a silent prayer for Brother John D. Wilson who will have surgery Thursday, Nov. 4th.

Carl C. Aycock, 32°, K.C.C.H.
Secretary

THIS IS CHRISTMAS

(The following article is one written by our late Brother Harold Glenn Cuthrell, 32°, K.C.C.H., and which was used in the December 1958 issue of our BAGPIPE.)

By Harold Glenn Cuthrell

As Scottish Rite Masons we rejoice in the beauty, the joy, and the message of Christmas, for Scottish Rite Masonry proclaims the Christmas Faith which is a triumphant belief in the glory and power of the love of the Eternal God and Father of all mankind. Let us be grateful for Christmas, and open our hearts to the inspiration and influence of this Holy Season.

Christmas is Christ proclaiming the majesty and beauty and love of God for man struggling through the darkness of the world for light and understanding and peace. Christmas is the joyous festival of the Holy Nativity affirming that God was in Jesus Christ revealing his omnipotent love and plenteous redemption to man confronted with evil.

Christmas is reading again the blessed story of the first Christmas as recorded in the Gospels according to St. Matthew and to St. Luke: The Magnificat of Mary, the anthem of the angels, the birth of Jesus, the adoration of the shepherds, the Star of Bethlehem, the visit of the wise men, and the flight into Egypt.

Christmas is the Cherry Tree Carol telling us the legend of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Mary, seeing a tree filled with ripe cherries, asked Joseph to get some for her but he refused, whereupon the branches bent down so she could reach the cherries. Feeling ashamed, Joseph attempted to reach the fruit, but the branches flew back so that he could not reach them.

Christmas is giving and sharing, remembering the destitute and unfortunate, and presenting gifts to those in need and loneliness and faced with adversity and affliction.

Christmas is reading Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" and living again with old Scrooge and Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, and feeling the blessedness and beauty of this ghostly Christmas story, saying with Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone."

Christmas is reading Henry Van Dyke's "The Other Wise Man," and going again on the long quest and journey with the other wiseman to find the king of kings. All of us are on a journey through the realm of this mortality in search of the fulfillment of our souls in the eternal city of God.

Christmas is journeying with Washington Irving in his "Christmas Papers," and living with him in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day of Merrie England in the day of the stagecoach and glowing candles in hospitable inns bedecked with holly and mistletoe, and carol singers serenading the lords and ladies in the baronial halls radiant with the yule log and banqueting in the gay pageantry of the season.

Christmas is candles glowing in windows on Christmas Eve symbolizing the light and love dispelling the darkness, and filling the heart with a joyful faith in the power of love to overcome evil and bring in the day of universal peace. There is the tradition that candles are put in the windows to light the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas Eve. All of us cherish the beauty of the Christmas candlelight service. Before the Birth of Christ men looked upon the lighted candle as the symbol of spiritual aspiration. In the Old Testament frequent references are made to the candle as the symbol of spiritual light. We read in Psalm 18:28: "For thou will light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness."

Christmas is a boys' choir, with rosy cheeks and sweet voices, singing with exultation, "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," and "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

Christmas is Santa Claus with his wonderful and magic gifts and toys for little children, and reading again about the visit of St. Nicholas in Clement Moore's poem, and living again in the enchantment of Christmas Eves of childhood.

Christmas is returning home to family and friends, savoring the joys of friendship, exchanging gifts with grateful hearts, enjoying the Christmas dinner, and sitting before the open fire enjoying the comfort and goodness of home.

Christmas is bright new toys beneath a festive tinseled tree with happy children opening the gaily wrapped packages on Christmas morning.

Christmas is trimming the Christmas tree with gilded walnuts, gilded wishbones, popcorn and cranberry strings, paper chains, and twinklers. Christmas is having a tree of holly, fir, cedar, or pine with golden tinsel and shiny red balls and silver icicles and a beautiful star at the top and a little angel with shining silver wings.

Christmas is baking fruit cakes, roasting the turkey with chestnut or oyster dressing, and making mince pies, stuffed dates, circus candies, cinnamon crisps, and Christmas tree cookies.

Christmas is the bells and chimes ringing out the frosty air of midnight and dawn the carols "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

Christmas is listening to a great choir singing triumphantly the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah."

Christmas is remembering the history of Christmas in our country: The first celebration of Christmas held by Englishmen in America was at Jamestown

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in 1607. Capt. John Smith wrote in his record: "The extreme winde, rayne, frost, and snow caused us to keep Christmas among the Savages, where we were never more merry, nor fed on more plenty of oysters, fish, flesh, wildfowl and good bread."

Governor Bradford wrote in his record about the Christmas at Plymouth in 1620: "We went on shore, some to fell timber, some to saw, some to rive, and some to carry: so no man rested all that day." In the evening there was a Christmas dinner on the Mayflower.

The Puritans observed Christmas as a solemn day of worship. In 1659 the General Court of Massachusetts enacted the following law relative to Christmas: "Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forebearing of labor, feasting, or any other way as a festival shall be fined Five Shilling."

In the cold and snow of Valley Forge, George Washington prayed with his troops on Christmas Day, 1777.

In the deep south back in the 1800s, it was the custom to hold open house at old Southern mansions. A few days before Christmas a load of cotton pulled by a six-mule team would be decorated with colored streamers, and sent to town to be exchanged for Christmas supplies for the plantation. A plantation legend says that on Christmas Eve at the stroke of midnight all the farm animals kneel toward the star of the east.

Christmas is living in memories of Christmas in the past: Doing the Christmas trading at the general store, which was fragrant with spices and candy and fruit and coffee and cheese; sawing and splitting a lot of extra wood for the holidays — grandfather killing and dressing a big fat goose — fresh butter being churned and hams and bacon being brought in from the smokehouse — going to church to see the children's Christmas pageant and then having gifts presented from the Sunday School Christmas tree — children piling into cold beds on Christmas Eve with a thrilling expectancy and joyful mystery pervading the cold room under the rafters — jumping out of bed on Christmas morning and running to the fireplace and taking down the stockings filled with candy and nuts and fruit, and then kneeling in the cold of Christmas dawning and looking over the magic toys Saint Nick had left on the hearth — smelling the wonderful odors of roasting turkey, ham, mince pies and cakes from mother's kitchen — the young people laughing and joking in the kitchen while making divinity fudge and having a good time taffy pulling — on Christmas evening everyone enjoying the magic-lantern slides — skating on the millpond on Christmas afternoon — going to Church on Christmas morning and coming back home to sit down to the delectable Christmas dinner — playing charades on Christmas night — dipping bayberry candles and roasting apples and eating plum pudding — real candles of white and red and blue and yellow decorating the Christmas tree — neighborhood carol sings, and afterwards enjoying fruit cake and coffee before an open fire.

Christmas is worshipping in the sanctuary on Christmas Day and lifting up our voices with friends and neighbors in this prayer: "O God our Father, who hast brought us again to the glad season when we commemorate the birth of thy son, Jesus Christ our Lord, grant that his spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old; open our lips that we too may sing with uplifted hearts, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Amen."

Christmas is a blessing to the heart and a benediction to the spirit with this simple commandment of Christian love written by an unknown author: "Ah, friends, dear friends, as years go on and heads get gray, how fast the guests do go! Touch hands, with those who stay. Strong hands to the weak, old hands to young, around the Christmas board touch hands. The false forget, the foe forgive, for every guest will go and every fire burn low and cabin empty stand. Forget, forgive, for who may say that Christmas Day may ever come to host or guest again. Touch hands!"

New Bern Scottish Rite Visits Switzerland

The Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of New Bern made its first venture in tour sponsorship this Fall when through the Regency Travel, Inc. people of Boston we sponsored a fascinating visit to Switzerland. Those of our membership who participated in the tour were loud in their praise of the manner in which Julian Roberts, the President of Regency Travel, Inc. handled the arrangements. His helpers — his own wife, who was so charming and gracious in her handling of so many of the details and contributed so much to the personal enjoyment of every member of the tour, is certainly a worthy asset to any tour. Another associate, Mr. Kenneth Gordon, was likewise invaluable in his managing of the tour arrangements and other details connected with it. These people are tops in their field and the Scottish Rite Bodies in New Bern are happy indeed to have been associated with them in making such a delightful trip available to our members. Surely you will enjoy reading some of the details of the tour:

* * * * *

Fifty-one members of the New Bern Scottish Rite Bodies had a long-awaited treat on their week-long tour of Switzerland in late October.

Our first bit of excitement came very

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early in our journey when we crossed the Atlantic on the luxurious new KLM 747 jet. You certainly don't feel cramped on this airplane.

Our first stop, Zurich, was a big, busy city where everyone found plenty to do. The ladies were delighted to discover lots of places to shop along the Bahnhofstrasse, Europe's Fifth Avenue.

A smooth ride by motorcoach took us from Zurich to Geneva through some of the world's most beautiful countryside with chalets at every turn. Geneva is a beautiful city located on its namesake lake, known to the rest of the Swiss (who may be envious) by its Roman name, Lake Leman. Geneva has long been the center of world negotiation for international peace and commerce.

It was less than two hours' ride from Geneva to Chamonix, France, where we took one cable car after another to the 14,000 foot summit of Mont Blanc, the highest of all the Alps.

Our next stop at Berne, the Swiss capital, was of particular interest to those of us from New Bern. The two cities don't look much alike, but being in our town's European twin was really exciting.

After an old-world lunch in Berne we criss-crossed the foothills of the Alps to Lucerne. Our hotel there, the Schweizerhof, was located right on Lake Lucerne with beautiful Mount Pilatus on the opposite shore. Lucerne itselt was very old and charming with narrow cobblestone streets and small foot bridges across the river Reuss. After eight days we reluctantly left Switzerland to return home again.

Throughout the trip our accommodations, flights, sightseeing, meals, and the Swiss people themselves, were delightful. We have long since returned to Craven County, North Carolina, but many of us will continue to see fleeting glimpses of mountains and chalets out of our kitchen windows for some time to come.

There'll Always Be a Christmas

There'll always be a Christmas,
As long as man depends
On God's commands
And loving hands,
Or dear and kindly friends.

There'll always be a Christmas
As long as people pray,
And little tousled-headed boys
Gain happiness from garish toys
At dawn of Christmas Day.

There'll always be a Christmas
As long as Heaven above
Permits wee little star-eyed girls
To brush their dollies golden curls
And lavish them with love.

There'll always be a Christmas
As long as babes are born,
And there will be
The Christmas tree
To greet each Christmas dawn.

—VESEY

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In Memoriam

Our memories are precious gifts.
To treasure through the years,
To comfort us when days are dark,
And eyes are dimmed with tears,
Without them we'd be desolate.
When loved ones slip away.
Possessing them our hearts re-live,
And so — when separation comes,
To bring us bitter loss,
Our memories are precious gifts,
To help bear the cross.

James N. Caprell, 32°, Greenville, N. C.	**Sept. 20, 1971**
Hugh A. Watson, Jr., 32°, New Bern, N. C.	**Nov. 5, 1971**
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NOTE OF THANKS

John Ruskin sat watching a lamp lighter who with a torch in his hand was lighting the lamps on a distant hill. The man himself could not be seen but the lights would gleam as each one was lit. Ruskin said to his friend, "That is what I mean by a real Christian. You can trace his course by the lights he leaves burning."

The same can be said of our Fall Reunion. You who took a part, whether it be small or large, in the front office or registration desk, welcoming committee, dining room, robing room, choir room, stage crew or a ritualistic speaking part or non-speaking part, by your willingness to participate the lights and truth of Scottish Rite Masonry have been lit to lead your fellowman to a God of love, whereby and only through Him will the Immortality of the Soul be a reality.

Charles T. Midyette, 33°
Director of Work

CHRISTMAS

A man is at his finest toward the finish
of the year;
He is almost what he should be when the
Christmas season's here;
Then he's thinking more of others than
he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy
worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any
other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him he
comes close to the sublime.
Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft
misunderstood;
There are days the worst that's in him
is the master of the good,
But at Christmas Kindness rules him and
he puts himself aside.
And his petty hates are vanished and his
heart is opened wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but some-
day it seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what
God sent him here to be.

—Edgar A. Guest, 33°

To Our New Initiates

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15° Through 30°

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15° Through 32°

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19° Through 32°

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Ray Melvin Shearin ..... Warrenton, N. C.
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Alvin Duke Underwood, Sr. ..... Wilson, N. C.

4° Through 32°

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Lyman Dawson Barrow ..... Kinston, N. C.
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Joseph Webb Campen ..... Edenton, N. C.
Billy Andrew Casper ..... La Grange, N. C.
Hilton Ottis Chesson, Sr. ..... Creswell, N. C.
Ernest Andrew Chresoulis ..... Camp Lejeune, N. C.
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Jim Arthur Fulcher ..... Sneads Ferry, N. C.
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Lawrence Miller Gibbs ..... Bayboro, N. C.
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William Edward Hablawetz ..... Jacksonville, N. C.
Wade Hampton Hagerman, Jr. ..... Camp Lejeune, N. C.
Niles Dennis Hamblin ..... Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Clarence Robert Harris ..... Jacksonville, N. C.
William Leonard Hawkins ..... Jacksonville, N. C.
Lantice (NMN) Hill, Jr. ..... La Grange, N. C.
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Macon Floyd Keeter ..... Weldon, N. C.
Norman James Kelley ..... Jacksonville, N. C.
Eddie Rogers Kennedy ..... Beulaville, N. C.
John O'Malley Keyes ..... Hubert, N. C.
Charles Edward King ..... Fayetteville, N. C.
Claude Atlee Koontz ..... New Bern, N. C.
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William Bryan Longest, III ..... Beaufort, N. C.
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Robert Frank Martin ..... Wilson, N. C.
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Angelo Maurakis ..... Greenville, N. C.
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Harold Ernest Pullicino ..... Jacksonville, N. C.
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Bruce Bastian Reinhardt ..... Belhaven, N. C.
John (D) Riggs ..... Atlantic, N. C.
John (D) Riggs, Jr. ..... New Bern, N. C.
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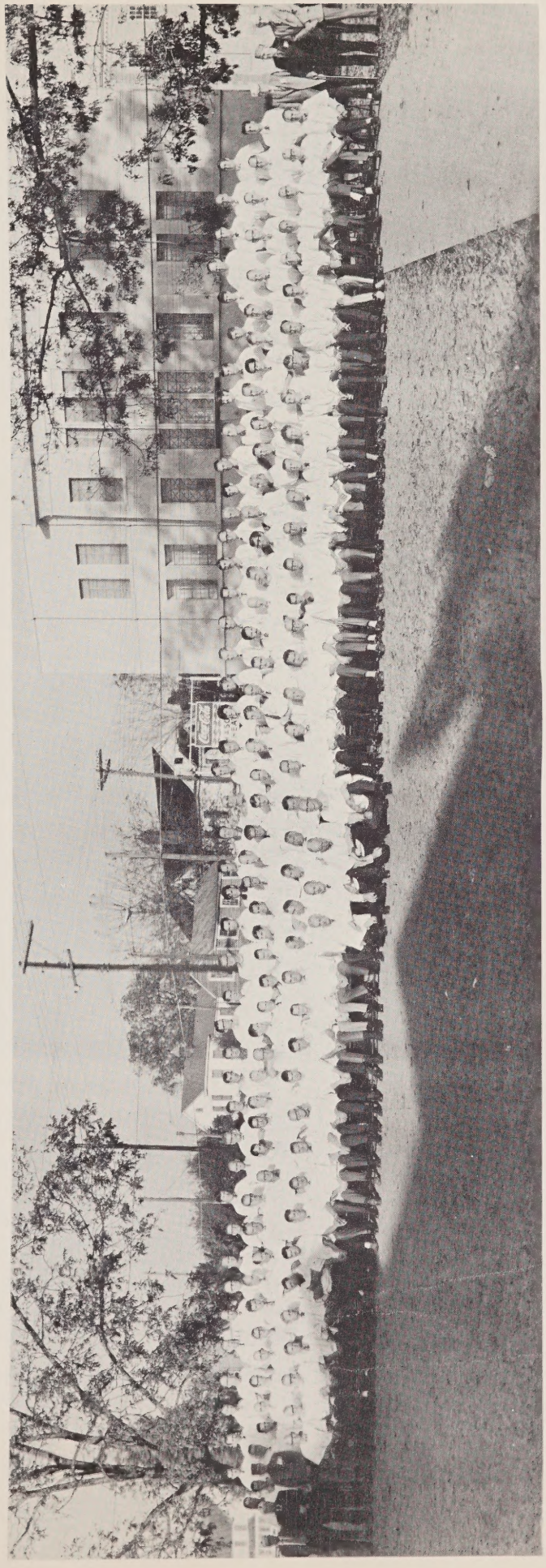
Wilson Curtis Wainwright ..... Chinquapin, N. C.
Lewis George Whaley ..... Beulaville, N. C.
Theodore Roosevelt Willis, Jr. Harkers Island, N. C.
George Deitor Wilson ..... New Bern, N. C.



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View across the harbor at the Coast Guard Station, Ocracoke, N. C. — Outer Banks

OCRACOKE HARBOR, OCRACOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

Ocracoke Coast Guard Station stands like a sentinel at the entrance to the beautiful harbor, known as "Silver Lake." The motto of the U. S. Coast Guard is "Semper Paratus," and just as in days gone by the Life Saving Service went to the rescue of shipwrecks along the Outer Banks, the Coast Guard today is "Always Prepared" to go to the assistance of the ever increasing number of small, privately-owned power boats and yachts which visit Ocracoke annually to fish in nearby Pamlico Sound or out in the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic. Many tourists visit the Coast Guard tower located adjacent to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Marina and the Sea Level (Ocracoke to Cedar Island) ferry docks, to get the magnificent view of the harbor, the Village, and the broad Atlantic Oceon beach. Information about Ocracoke can be obtained by writing the local Civic Club.

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